

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 00761 171329Z

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ACTION SS-25

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EXDIS

E.O.11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, MU, UK

SUBJECT POTENTIAL PUBLICITY ON US MILITARY RELATIONSHIP
WITH OMAN

REF: STATE 11531

1. WE CONTACTED FOREIGN MINISTER ZAWAWI AFTER OPENING OF BUSINESS JANUARY 17. HE GAVE OMANI GOVERNMENT'S AGREEMENT TO ALL ASPECTS OF LINE DEPARTMENT PROPOSED TO TAKE IN REFTEL. WE ARE TO PROVIDE HIM THIS LINE IN WRITING IN COURSE OF DAY AND ALSO REQUEST IMMEDIATE (NOT NIACT) CABLE WITH TEXT OF ACTUAL REMARKS AT TODAY'S AND SUBSEQUENT STATE, DOD, OR OTHER BRIEFINGS ON THIS SUBJECT.

2. FCO ACTING ME DEPARTMENT HEAD CLARK, AFTER CONSULTING WITH ASSISTANT UNDERSECRETARY WEIR, INFORMED US BRITISH DO NOT OBJECT TO MAIN LINES INDICATED REFTEL. HOWEVER, THEY PREFER NOT TO BE SINGLED OUT QUITE SO MUCH AS DEPARTMENT PROPOSED (PARA 3 REFTEL) BY STATING THAT SULTAN HAS ALREADY AGREED TO USG USE OF MASIRAH AND WE DISCUSSING WITH HMG. BRITISH PREFER WE SIMPLY SAY PERMISSION HAS BEEN REQUESTED AND MATTER IS BEING DISCUSSED WITH THE OMANI AND BRITISH GOVERNMENTS (ADDING AT DISCRETION OF DEPARTMENT "IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AGREEMENT ON USE OF MASIRAH BETWEEN THOSE TWO GOVERNMENTS.") WE

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PAGE 02 LONDON 00761 171329Z

SUBSEQUENTLY CHECKED WITH ZAWAWI WHO AGREED TO IT IF

BRITISH WISH IT. OMANIS THEMSELVES ARE "COMPLETELY OPEN ON THIS MATTER," HE TOLD EMBOFF. (ZAWAWI AND CLARK BOTH UNDERSTAND DEPARTMENT MIGHT HAVE TO BE MORE SPECIFIC IN A FEW DAYS ON WHOM USG IS SPEAKING TO.)

3. FYI. WE HAVE ALSO BROACHED WITH CLARK US-UK AGREE-

MENT BETWEEN CIC'S OF NOVEMBER 7, 1949, IN WHICH MASIRAH LISTED AS ONE OF AIRFIELDS THAT CAN BE USED BY US. FEBRUARY 20, 1970 APPENDIX (AVAILABLE AT THIS POST) LISTS MASIRAH AS "N.F." FIELD, OR ONE ONLY OCCASIONALLY IN USE BY BRITISH SERVICE AIRCRAFT AND REQUIRING ADVANCE NOTICE OF IMPENDING FLIGHTS. CLARK TELLS US 1972 UP-DATING HE HAS FOUND ALSO LISTS MASIRAH BUT MARKED "S.P.," WHICH DENOTES AIRFIELDS THAT ARE STAGING POSTS AND HAVE SMALL PERMANENT STAFFS (BUT APPARENTLY DO NOT REQUIRE ADVANCE NOTICE OF IMPENDING FLIGHTS). CLARK AGREED WITH US THAT EXISTENCE OF SUCH AGREEMENT--IF THIS TURNS OUT TO BE THE CASE--COULD CONSIDERABLY FACILITATE HMG ACQUIESCENCE IN DESIRED USG USE AS WELL AS PUT ENTIRE MATTER IN MORE ROUTINE CATEGORY WHICH MIGHT BE HELPFUL WITH US CONGRESS AND PUBLIC. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO INVESTIGATE THIS FURTHER WITH DOD.

SPIERS

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